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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KIGALI IMMEDIATE

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FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM AF/C - K. AISTON

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: AMGT RW

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL - INFORMAL

REF: 2/22 AISTON/RAWSON TELCON

1. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. AS WE DISCUSSED OVER THE PHONE, WE HAVE DRAFTED A  
PRESS STATEMENT ON THE LATEST EVENTS, WHICH WE PLAN TO  
RELEASE WEDNESDAY. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF OUR DRAFT, WHICH  
IS IN THE CLEARANCE PROCESS. I WILL CALL YOU WEDNESDAY  
MORNING OOB OUR TIME FOR YOUR COMMENTS. (FYI: WE HAVE  
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TO HAVE IT IN FINAL BY 10:30 AM TO MEET PA'S DEADLINES.)

BEGIN TEXT OF DRAFT STATEMENT AND Q'S AND A'S

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OFFICE OF THE SPOKESMAN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEBRUARY 23, 1994

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: WILLIAM E LANDFAIR  
DATE/CASE ID: 18 JAN 2005 200401096

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STATEMENT BY MICHAEL MCCURRY, SPOKESMAN

RWANDA: ASSASSINATION OF PUBLIC WORKS MINISTER

THE U.S. GOVERNMENT STRONGLY CONDEMNS THE ASSASSINATION OF RWANDAN MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND ENERGY FELICIEN GATABAZI, WHO WAS MURDERED BY UNKNOWN ASSAILANTS OUTSIDE HIS HOME ON FEBRUARY 21. THE ASSASSINATION IS AN EXTREME EXAMPLE OF THE INCREASING VIOLENCE AND TENSION THAT HAS ACCOMPANIED THE CONTINUING IMPASSE OVER FORMATION OF THE NEW TRANSITION GOVERNMENT. DEMONSTRATIONS OVER THE WEEKEND CAUSED AT LEAST EIGHT DEATHS, AND A POLITICAL PARTY LEADER WAS MURDERED THE DAY AFTER THE MINISTER'S ASSASSINATION. WE CALL FOR A SWIFT INVESTIGATION OF THESE KILLINGS SO THAT THE PERPETRATORS CAN BE IDENTIFIED AND BROUGHT TO JUSTICE.

THE ARUSHA PEACE ACCORDS SIGNED LAST AUGUST BETWEEN THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT AND THE RWANDAN PATRIOTIC FRONT OFFER REAL HOPE FOR LASTING PEACE. HOWEVER, POLITICAL HAGGLING OVER COMPOSITION OF THE NEW TRANSITION GOVERNMENT HAS

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HELD UP IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACCORDS. THE LONGER THE POLITICAL IMPASSE DRAGS ON, THE GREATER THE RISK OF FURTHER VIOLENCE. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT URGES RWANDA'S LEADERS TO ACT IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST AND RESPECT THE PEACE ACCORDS SO THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT CAN FORM AND THE ACCORDS CAN BE FULLY IMPLEMENTED. WE CALL ON ALL SIDES TO FORSWEAR VIOLENCE AND COMMIT THEMSELVES TO TRUE NATIONAL RECONCILIATION.

AF PRESS GUIDANCE  
FEBRUARY 23, 1994

RWANDA

Q. WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE ASSASSINATION?

A: MINISTER GATABAZI WAS ASSASSINATED BY UNKNOWN ARMED MEN OUTSIDE HIS HOME AT ABOUT 10:00 PM LOCAL TIME, FEBRUARY 21. ONE OF HIS BODYGUARDS WAS ALSO KILLED AND ANOTHER WAS SERIOUSLY INJURED. NO ONE HAS CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE KILLING, AND AN INVESTIGATION IS UNDERWAY.

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Q. WHAT INFORMATION DO YOU HAVE ON THE MINISTER'S BACKGROUND?

A: GATABAZI, 50, WAS THE FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRAT PARTY (PSD). FROM 1977 TO 1984, HE HELD A NUMBER OF MINISTERIAL PORTFOLIOS IN THE FIRST CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA. WHEN A  
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COALITION GOVERNMENT WAS FORMED IN APRIL 1992, GATABAZI WAS NAMED TO HEAD THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND ENERGY, A MINISTRY WHICH THE PSD PARTY HOLDS UNDER THE AGREEMENT CREATING THE COALITION GOVERNMENT.

Q. WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT THE PARTY LEADER KILLED ON FEB. 22?

A: MARTIN BUCYANA, LEADER OF THE COALITION FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE REPUBLIC (CDR), A SMALL POLITICAL PARTY, WAS REPORTEDLY PULLED FROM HIS CAR BY A GROUP OF DEMONSTRATORS AND MURDERED IN THE PROVINCIAL CITY OF BUTARE AT MID-DAY ON FEBRUARY 22.

Q. WHAT IS THE CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION?

A: THE ARUSHA PEACE ACCORDS, SIGNED ON AUGUST 4, 1993, PROVIDE FOR THE FORMATION OF A BROAD-BASED COALITION TRANSITION GOVERNMENT, WHICH IS TO INCLUDE THE FIVE PARTIES CURRENTLY REPRESENTED IN THE GOVERNMENT AS WELL AS THE RWANDAN PATRIOTIC FRONT (RPF). EACH PARTY IS ALLOTTED A CERTAIN NUMBER OF MINISTERIAL AND ASSEMBLY SEATS; HOWEVER, INTERNAL SPLITS IN TWO OF THE COALITION PARTIES, THE LIBERAL PARTY (PL) AND THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT (MDR), HAVE PREVENTED THESE PARTIES FROM PRESENTING UNIFIED MINISTERIAL AND PARLIAMENTARY LISTS. NEGOTIATIONS ARE CONTINUING TO RESOLVE THE IMPASSE, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF UN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE BOOH BOOH AND THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE U.S. AND OTHER INTERESTED COUNTRIES.

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Q. WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE UN PEACEKEEPING MISSION?

A: IN EARLY JANUARY, FOLLOWING ITS THREE-MONTH REVIEW OF THE OPERATION, THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL APPROVED ADDITIONAL DEPLOYMENTS OF PEACEKEEPERS. THERE ARE NOW OVER 2,000 UN PERSONNEL SERVING IN UNAMIR, THE UN ASSISTANCE MISSION IN RWANDA. UNAMIR HAS HELPED LOCAL GENDARMES MAINTAIN ORDER DURING THE PAST FEW DAYS OF DISTURBANCES AND HAS PLAYED A VERY POSITIVE ROLE IN CONTAINING AND PREVENTING ESCALATION OF THE VIOLENCE.

ON FEBRUARY 17, THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL ISSUED A PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT URGING RAPID FORMATION OF THE TRANSITION GOVERNMENT AND REMINDING RWANDANS THAT UNAMIR WILL BE ASSURED OF CONSISTENT SUPPORT ONLY IF THE PARTIES IMPLEMENT THE ARUSHA ACCORDS FULLY AND RAPIDLY.

Q. HOW MUCH AID DO WE PROVIDE TO RWANDA?

A: OUR FY-94 BUDGET FOR DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE IS 14.6 MILLION. OUR AID CENTERS ON BUDGET REFORM, DEMOCRATIZATION, PROMOTION OF PRIVATE ENTERPRISE, FAMILY PLANNING, AND AIDS PREVENTION. IN ADDITION, IN FY-93, WE PROVIDED OVER 35 MILLION IN HUMANITARIAN AID TO PERSONS DISPLACED BY THE WAR. SOME 350,000 REMAIN DISPLACED, AND WE ESTIMATE THAT HUMANITARIAN AID WILL BE AT LEAST 10 MILLION IN FY-94.

Q. WHAT ARE WE TELLING THE RESIDENT AMERICAN COMMUNITY?

A: THERE ARE ABOUT 200 AMERICANS RESIDENT IN RWANDA,  
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FEWER THAN HALF OF WHOM ARE U.S. GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AND DEPENDENTS. THE EMBASSY HAS HELD REGULAR EMERGENCY ACTION COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND IS INSTRUCTING THE RESIDENT AMERICAN COMMUNITY TO AVOID TRAVEL UP-COUNTRY AND IN KNOWN TROUBLE AREAS AND TO REMAIN AT HOME AT NIGHT.  
CHRISTOPHER

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